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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, You are always right, just, and fair. We sing of Your steadfast love and proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations. Today, inspire our lawmakers to walk in the light of Your countenance. Abide with them so that they will not be brought to grief but will avoid the pitfalls that lead to ruin. Lord, empower them to glorify You in all they think, say, and do as they remember that all they have and are is a gift from You. This is the day that You have made. We will rejoice and be glad in You, the source of our hope and joy.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1926, the flood insurance bill, postcloture.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 today to allow for our weekly caucus meetings.

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1963

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand that S. 1963 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1963) to repeal Section 403 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, could I ask who the sponsors of this legislation are? Who is sponsoring it?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senators PRYOR, HAGAN, SHAHEEN, and BEGICH.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to this bill.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

### TRIBUTE TO DIANE SKVARLA, SENATE CURATOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I congratulate Diane Skvarla on her retirement after 20 years of service dedicated service as the Senate Curator.

Every day people from across the country—students on field trips, tourists, dignitaries, staffers and Senators alike—appreciate the historic treasures displayed in the hallways of the Capitol.

These works of fine art and craftsmanship are symbols of our democracy. For two decades Diane has been the steward of these treasures.

I thank Diane for her dedication, and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

### FLOOD INSURANCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am gratified that we were able to get enough votes on the flood insurance bill to get us this far. We have been trying to get

to it for a long time. We are very close to a consent agreement to move forward on the bill with a few relevant amendments.

We are going to move forward with the consent agreement or move forward with the bill. This bill is going to move forward this week. I hope we can work out something today to move forward. Once again, I commend Senators MENENDEZ, LANDRIEU, and ISAKSON for their hard work.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Republican leader is recognized.

### STATE OF THE UNION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, tonight Members of both parties will welcome the President to the Capitol as he lays out his plans for the year. We look forward to hearing what he has to say. We also look forward to hearing what Congresswoman MCMORRIS RODGERS has to say, too. She is a leader in our party with a compelling story, someone who truly understands what it means to overcome adversity, someone who is dedicated to helping every single American realize her greatest potential. The people of Washington's Fifth District are lucky to have her, and so are we.

As for the President's speech, this is a pivotal moment in the Obama Presidency. We are now entering our sixth year with President Obama at the helm of our economy, the sixth year of his economic policies. At this point we have seen just about everything in the President's tool box. We had a years-long clinic on the failures of liberalism: the government stimulus, the taxes, the regulations, the centralization, and the government control. It just has not worked.

So 74 percent of the American people say it still feels as if the country is in

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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